

***Arenaria interpres* (Ruddy Turnstone)**

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Charadriiformes (Plovers, Sandpipers, And Allies)

Family: Scolopacidae (Curlews, Dowitchers, Godwits, Knots, Phalaropes, Sandpipers, Snipe, Yellowlegs, And Woodcock)

General comments:

Species is currently undergoing significant short term (10 year) and long term (30 year) regional population declines although under categories developed for the US Shorebird Conservation Plan, short term Ruddy declines reflect less certainty (Andres et al. 2012. Wader Study Group Bull. 119(3)).

Species Conservation Range Maps for Ruddy Turnstone:

Town Map: [Arenaria interpres Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Arenaria interpres_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation: NA

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines:

Ruddy Turnstone is currently undergoing steep population declines, which has already led to, or if unchecked is likely to lead to, local extinction and/or range contraction.

Notes:

Species is currently undergoing significant short term (10 year) and long term (30 year) regional population declines although under categories developed for the US Shorebird Conservation Plan, short term Ruddy declines reflect less certainty (Andres

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

United States Shorebird Conservation Plan:

Species of High Concern

North Atlantic Regional Shorebird Plan:

Species of High Concern

High Climate Change Vulnerability:

Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: Medium, Reviewers: Decided in Workshop (W)

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Ruddy Turnstone:

Formation Name	Cliff & Rock
Macrogroup Name	Rocky Coast
Habitat System Name:	Acadian-North Atlantic Rocky Coast
Habitat System Name:	North Atlantic Cobble Shore

Formation Name	Intertidal
Macrogroup Name	Intertidal Bedrock
Habitat System Name:	High Intertidal
Habitat System Name:	Low-Intertidal
Habitat System Name:	Mid-Intertidal

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Formation Name Intertidal**Macrogroup Name Intertidal Gravel Shore****Habitat System Name:** High Intertidal**Habitat System Name:** Lower Intertidal**Habitat System Name:** Mid-Intertidal**Macrogroup Name Intertidal Mudflat****Habitat System Name:** Non-Vascular Mudflat**Macrogroup Name Intertidal Sandy Shore****Habitat System Name:** Sand Beach**Habitat System Name:** Sand Flat**Stressors Assigned to Ruddy Turnstone:**

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity	
	Highly Actionable	High Severity
	Medium-High	High
	Medium	Medium-High
	Low	
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low

IUCN Level 1 Threat Biological Resource Use**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Highly actionable**Notes:** Activities in the intertidal areas can impact habitat and behavior.**IUCN Level 1 Threat Human Intrusions and Disturbance****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Recreational Activities**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Highly actionable**Notes:** Impacts can be minimized through outreach, municipal beach management agreements, municipal ordinance, and environmental review recommendations.**IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Lack of knowledge**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Highly actionable**Notes:** Knowledge of current population status in Maine and important staging areas are lacking.**IUCN Level 1 Threat Residential and Commercial Development****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Housing and Urban Areas**Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Development impacts can be mitigated through environmental permit review process.**IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather****IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Habitat Shifting or Alteration**Severity:** Severe**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty**Notes:** Habitat loss from sea level rise could be mitigated through conservation of upland areas that will allow intertidal habitats to migrate inland. Impacts to invertebrate prey base from acidification may be difficult to minimize.

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IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Storms and Flooding

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Beach erosion may limit the number of roosting/feeding areas in southern Maine. Impacts may be mitigated through environmental permit review process.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Temperature Extremes

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Impacts to invertebrate prey base from increasing ocean temps may occur.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Industrial and Military Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Impacts may be mitigated through oil spill clean-up and compensation. Prevention of industrial spills may occur through environmental permit regulation and contingency planning.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Ruddy Turnstone:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Actions Associated with the Shorebirds Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Identify and map priority feeding and roosting areas including offshore habitats, and implement protection initiatives. Enter data in IFW ETSC database.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge, Industrial and Military Effluents, Housing and Urban Areas, Tourism and Recreational Areas, Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
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Place symbolic stake and twine fencing around important beach roosting areas with signage to identify roosting areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities, Tourism and Recreational Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Work with the Maine Department of Marine Resources to conduct research to determine the impact of macroalgae harvest on wintering waterfowl

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Conservation Action	Category: Public Outreach	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Provide outreach to pet owners, beachgoers, kayakers, beach managers, and landowners to raise public awareness on shorebirds and on the impacts of disturbance from recreational activities in coastal areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Recreational Activities

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Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
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Use voluntary agreements, conservation easements, conservation tax abatements and incentives to protect important habitats

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Work and Other Activities, Recreational Activities, Housing and Urban Areas, Commercial and Industrial Areas

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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To determine population status continue monitoring program for SGCN shorebird species at high priority migration sites coastwide. Continue to coordinate with ISS, PRISM, Atlantic Flyway ESMP programs.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Identify prey resources in significant staging areas to determine potential limiting factors and optimal management techniques to promote these resources.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Determine length of stay at stopover areas, site fidelity, local movements and premigration condition to determine if coastal habitats are meeting shorebird requirements for successful migration.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: moderate	Type: new
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Determine limiting factors for SGCN shorebird species on breeding, migratory, or wintering areas.

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: on-going
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Gain a better understanding of the extent and impacts of algae harvesting on staging and wintering shorebirds. Conduct longterm monitoring of ecosystem-wide impacts of cutting algae to determine potential impacts to shorebird habitats and invertebrate pr

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified

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in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.